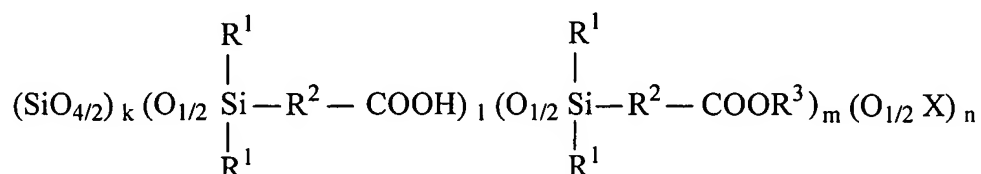## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Canceled).

2.   (Currently Amended)   A silicon-containing polymer comprising the structure represented by formula 1 below as a main structural unit
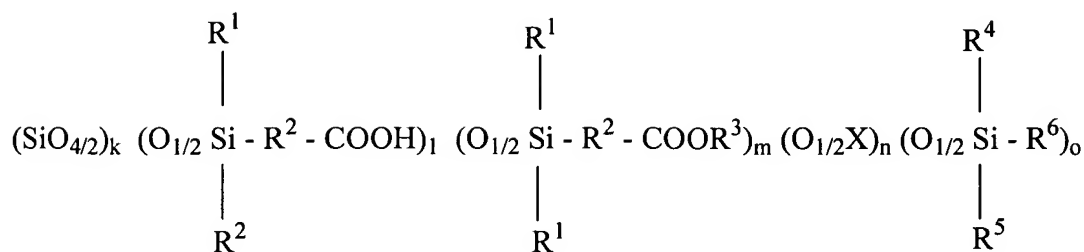
$$(SiO_{4/2})_k\ (O_{1/2}\ \overset{\overset{\textstyle R^1}{|}}{\underset{\underset{\textstyle R^1}{|}}{Si}}-R^2-COOH)_l\ (O_{1/2}\ \overset{\overset{\textstyle R^1}{|}}{\underset{\underset{\textstyle R^1}{|}}{Si}}-R^2-COOR^3)_m\ (O_{1/2}\ X)_n$$

1

where R^1 represents a monovalent organic group, R^2 represents a direct bond or a divalent organic group, R^3 represents a monovalent organic group or an organosilyl group, any of which groups may be of different types, X represents hydrogen, a monovalent organic group or an organosilyl group, which groups may be of different types, k and l are positive integers, m is 0 or a positive integer and n is a positive integer and n are 0 or positive integers, and these subscripts satisfy the following relationship

$$0 < \frac{1}{1+m+n} \leqq 0.\ 8 \qquad 0 \leqq \frac{m}{1+m} < 0.\ 2$$

wherein at least some of the X groups are triorganosilyl groups.

3.   (Original) A silicon-containing polymer according to claim 2, wherein said triorganosilyl groups include photosensitive crosslinkable groups.

4.   (Previously Presented)   A silicon-containing polymer represented by formula 2 below,

$$(SiO_{4/2})_k \; (O_{1/2} \overset{\displaystyle \overset{R^1}{|}}{\underset{\displaystyle \underset{R^2}{|}}{Si}} - R^2 - COOH)_l \; (O_{1/2} \overset{\displaystyle \overset{R^1}{|}}{\underset{\displaystyle \underset{R^1}{|}}{Si}} - R^2 - COOR^3)_m \; (O_{1/2}X)_n \; (O_{1/2} \overset{\displaystyle \overset{R^4}{|}}{\underset{\displaystyle \underset{R^5}{|}}{Si}} - R^6)_o$$

2

where R^1 represents a monovalent organic group,

R^2 represents a direct bond or a divalent organic group,

R^3 represents a monovalent organic group or an organosilyl group, any of which groups may be of different types,

X represents hydrogen, a monovalent organic group or an organosilyl group, which groups may be of different types, wherein at least some of the X groups are triorganosilyl groups containing a photosensitive crosslinkable group and wherein the photosensitive crosslinkable group is chloromethylphenylethyl,

R^4, R^5 and R^6 each independently represent a monovalent organic group, at least one of R^4, R^5 and R^6 being a monovalent organic group containing chloromethylphenylethyl, wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 may be one or more different types of organic groups,
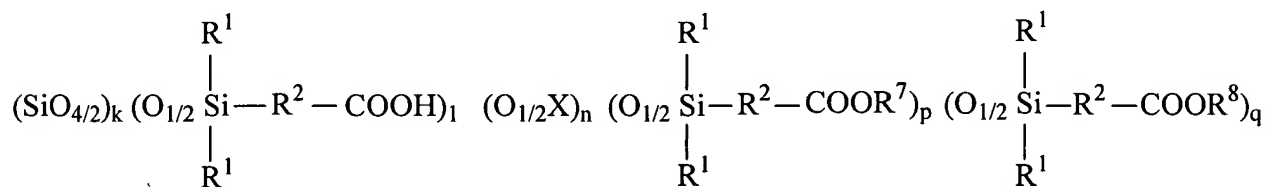
k, l and o are positive integers,

m and n are 0 or positive integers, and

these subscripts satisfy the following relationships:

$$0 < \frac{o}{1+m+n+o} \leq 0.\ 8$$

$$0 < \frac{1}{1+m+n} \leq 0.\ 8 \qquad 0 \leq \frac{m}{1+m} < 0.\ 2$$

5.   (Currently Amended)   A silicon-containing polymer comprising the structure represented by formula 3 below as a main structural unit

$$(SiO_{4/2})_k\ (O_{1/2}\overset{\displaystyle R^1}{\underset{\displaystyle R^1}{Si}}-R^2-COOH)_l\ (O_{1/2}X)_n\ (O_{1/2}\overset{\displaystyle R^1}{\underset{\displaystyle R^1}{Si}}-R^2-COOR^7)_p\ (O_{1/2}\overset{\displaystyle R^1}{\underset{\displaystyle R^1}{Si}}-R^2-COOR^8)_q$$

3

where R^1 represents a monovalent organic group, R^2 represents a direct bond or a divalent organic group, R^7 and R^8 <u>are different from each other and</u> each independently represent a monovalent organic group or an organosilyl group, any of which groups may be of different types, X represents hydrogen, a monovalent organic group or an organosilyl group, which groups may be of different types, k and q are positive integers, l, n, and p are 0 or positive integers, and these subscripts satisfy the following relationship

$$0 \leq \frac{1}{1+n+p+q} < 0.\ 5 \qquad 0.\ 1 < \frac{q}{1+n+p+q} \leq 0.\ 8$$
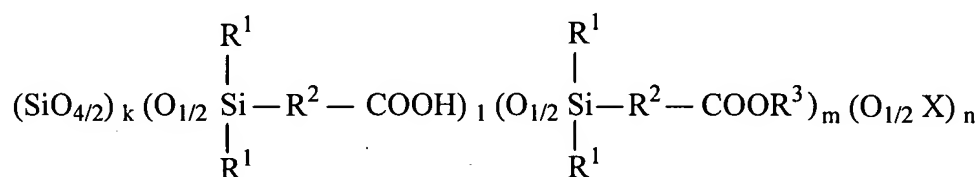
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6.   (Original)   A silicon-containing polymer according to claim 5, wherein at least some of the X groups are triorganosilyl groups.

7.   (Original)   A silicon containing polymer according to claim 5, wherein R^8 is a functional group that is eliminated by an acid catalyst.

8.   (Previously Presented)   A coplymer according to any one of claims 2 to 7, where R^2 is $-(CH_2)_a-$ and a is an integer of 1-10.

9 - 17 (Cancelled).

18.   (Previously Presented)   A silicon-containing polymer comprising the structure represented by formula 1 below as a main structural unit

$$(SiO_{4/2})_k \ (O_{1/2} \underset{\underset{R^1}{|}}{\overset{\overset{R^1}{|}}{Si}} - R^2 - COOH)_l \ (O_{1/2} \underset{\underset{R^1}{|}}{\overset{\overset{R^1}{|}}{Si}} - R^2 - COOR^3)_m \ (O_{1/2} \ X)_n$$

1

where R^1 represents a monovalent organic group, R^2 represents a direct bond or a divalent organic group, R^3 represents a monovalent organic group or an organosilyl group, any of which groups may be of different types, X represents hydrogen, a monovalent organic group or an organosilyl group, which groups may be of different types, k and l are positive integers, m is a positive integer, and n is 0 or a positive integer, and these subscripts satisfy the following relationship: $0 < l/(l+m+n) \le 0.8$ and $0 < m/(l+m) < 0.2$.

19.   (Previously Presented)   A silicon-containing polymer according to claim 18, wherein at least some of the X groups are triorganosilyl groups.

20. (Previously Presented) A silicon-containing polymer according to claim 19, wherein said triorganosilyl groups include photosensitive crosslinkable groups.

21. (Previously Presented) A coplymer according to any one of claims 18 to 20, where R^2 is $-(CH_2)_a-$ and a is an integer of 1-10.